

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

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April 27, 2007

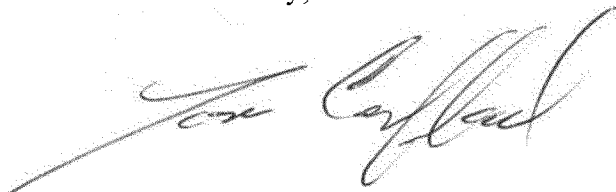
Ms. Dianne Soderlund, Project Manager
Environmental Protection Agency
222 W. 7th Avenue, Box 19
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Ms. Soderlund:

In late November 2006, state and federal agencies and representatives of Northern Dynasty Mines Inc. (NDM) met to discuss the formation of informal technical working groups for the Pebble Copper Gold Prospect. The purpose of the informal technical working groups is to provide an opportunity for agencies and NDM to discuss the scope and technical aspects of ongoing and proposed environmental baseline studies. A draft of the operating protocols and guidelines for the working groups is enclosed.

The purpose of this letter is to invite your agency to participate in those technical working groups where you believe expertise can be provided to assist in overall acquisition of baseline data for the proposed project. At this time, I envision that the first technical work groups will be convened to address the following: instream flow habitat assessment; fisheries studies; wildlife studies; and aquatic habitat assessment. Please let me know of your interest and I'll keep your agency apprised of upcoming technical work group meetings. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Thomas Crafford
Large Mine Permitting Manager
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Enclosure: draft operating protocols and guidelines

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

cc: Phil Brna, USFWS, Anchorage
Leroy Phillips, ACOE, Anchorage
Jeanne Hanson, NMFS, Anchorage

Tony DeGange, USGS, Anchorage
Joel Hard, NPS, Anchorage
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Tim Pilon, ADEC, Fairbanks
Al Ott, ADNR, Fairbanks

Mike Smith, NDM, Anchorage

Jim Buell, NDM, Portland

TC/ago